

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Claim 10 has been cancelled. Applicant submits that the current claim amendments place the present application in condition for immediate allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 10 stands objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office has indicated that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Office for acknowledging the patentable subject matter recited in claim 10. As such, independent claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 10.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Japanese Patent Publication No. 61-169627 to Moriya (hereinafter "Moriya") in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-69214 to Hibara (hereinafter "Hibara"). Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Moriya in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,384,452 to Rice (hereinafter "Rice"). Claims 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Moriya and Hibara in view of Rice.

As noted above, independent claims 1 has been amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 10. Claims 4, 6, 8, and 9 are all dependent upon independent claim 1. Accordingly, all currently pending claims include the allowable subject matter incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that each obviousness rejection has been overcome.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments made above, Applicant submits that all rejections have been overcome and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

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Reply to Office Action of July 9, 2008

However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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